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# DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

OF THE SEVERAL

Superb and Magnificent Pieces

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## MECHANISM and JEWELLERY,

EXHIBITED IN

Mr. COX's MUSEUM,

A T

Spring Gardens, Charing - Cross.

*Quid est quod arte effici haud queat?*

L O N D O N. MDCCLXXII.

Hours of admission eleven, two and seven every day (Sundays excepted);  
Tickets half a guinea each, admitting one person; to be had at Mr. Cox's,  
No. 103. Shoe Lane; and at the office of the Museum, at Spring Gardens.

DESIGNATIVE CATALOGUE

OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

AND THE


MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY



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HE ROOM is fitted up and decorated in an elegant manner: On the cieling of the dome are fine paintings in chiaro oscuro, by a celebrated artist, as are the fides of the dome by the same, with the emblems of the Liberal Arts, Music, Sculpture, Painting, and Mathematics, which are, in this Museum, so eminently displayed. In the center of the Room, and at each end are five magnificent crystal lustres, finely cut; four lesser lustres are also suspended from the mouths of dragons at the corners of the dome: other chandeliers and girandoles of crystal are also placed, wherever light is necessary to be transmitted; curtains of crimson are let down by machines to cover the pieces, which are also enclosed within a balustrade of white and gold; the doors  
also

also are white and gold, finely ornamented. A carpet covers the whole room, also the stairs; and, by a very curious contrivance, warm air is introduced into the room, at pleasure; the Proprietor having spared neither pains nor expence to make it in every respect commodious and agreeable.



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A  
DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE, &c.

PIECE the FIRST.

At the entrance of the Room on the left hand.



GRIFFIN seated upon a Rock, supporting a Vase richly ornamented, the pedestal itself being supported by four beautiful Palm Trees. This piece is nine feet high, and exhibits a number of mechanical motions; artificial water works, and musical chimes.

PIECE the SECOND.

Proceeding on the left hand.

An Elephant richly caparison'd and supporting a Pedestal, on which is a triumphal Car drawn by four horses, itself supporting a Table, on which is another triumphal Car, drawn by Doves round a magnificent Temple of mother-of-pearl, embellished with ornaments of jewellery and other decorations; this piece is nine feet high, and exhibits various musical and mechanical movements.

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PIECE

PIECE the THIRD.

Is a Griffin upon a Rock, like No. 1.

PIECE the FOURTH.

A richly-caparisoned Elephant, on a magnificent Pedestal, which supports two beautiful Galleries. On the first is a sumptuous Chariot of gold covered with flowers, fruit, leaves, and ornaments of jewellery, upon which are two Figures of gold, it is drawn by a Dragon. On the upper Gallery another Chariot drawn by Horses round a rock, upon which is rais'd a Gothic Temple of agate, ornamented with jewellery, on the summit of which is placed an irradiating Star. This piece is twelve feet in height, and displays (besides the progress of the chariot) the fall of Cascades round and within the recesses of the Temple, and terminates with a spiral ornament.

PIECE the FIFTH.

An Elephant standing on an elegant Pedestal, adorned with a basket of fruit curiously executed: on the back of the Elephant is placed a superb Temple of Silver, containing a musical Time-Piece of excellent workmanship; the ornaments of the Temple are of gold and jewellery, as is the Elephant, and most sumptuously caparisoned; within

within the body of the Elephant is mechanism finely constructed, by which it is animated to perform various motions like life.

This piece is nine feet high.

### PIECE the SIXTH.

A magnificent Asiatic Temple, ornamented with gold, jewellery, palm-trees, and other rich embellishments, out of the dome of which gradually rises a Pagoda to the musick of its chimes. The Temple itself stands on a Rock, adorned with various Animals, Shrubs, Flowers, Fossils, &c. The stand or pedestal on which it is placed, is composed of Palm-Trees of a beautiful transparent green, growing on a Rocky ground; upon which Crocodiles, Plants, Corals, and other aquatic productions may be seen: in the center is a pool of artificial water, surrounded with bull-rushes, and within the pool water Fowls are seen, variously sporting on the surface.

This Piece is ten feet high.

### PIECE the SEVENTH.

An Elephant, the same as No. 5.

PIECE

## PIECE the EIGHTH.

A most capital Amber Vase, the first of the kind ever made, embellish'd with many ornaments of gold and stones, of various colours, containing a large and elegant bunch of Flowers in jewellery with Butterflies and other insects alighted thereon; the flower unfolding, and the butterflies waving their wings in imitation of nature.

The Vase stands on the backs of four Turtles, animated like nature, and placed on the top of a pedestal rais'd upon columns of crystal, and beautifully adorn'd with gilt shells, amongst lively cascades of artificial water and other pleasing ornaments, with which the pot is also fill'd.

This Piece is ten feet high.

## PIECE the NINTH.

An Automaton in the habit of a Chinese, seated under a Pavillion of aventurine and lapis blue and gold, supported by pillars of silver, the cornish and mouldings of the same enriched with gold, on the top of which is a small Temple, containing an Eight-day time-piece, and on each side other elegant Temples, corresponding in richness, elegance and design with the first, and containing  
musical,



musical and mechanical motions, with stars of different magnitude also in motion.

The figure plays various tunes on a gold flute, ornamented with jewels. The wind proceeding from his mouth, while with his fingers he performs and graces the musick.

The pedestal of this piece, is in form of a commode of the finest lapis lazuli and aventurine, supported by Asiatic beasts, and displays on opening its doors, a most curious piece of machinery of a water mill with a river, bridges, passengers, water-falls, cascades, &c. in various directions; behind all which is an organ of excellent workmanship.

#### PIECE the TENTH.

An amber Vase, the same as No. 8.

#### PIECE the ELEVENTH.

A Cage of Birds, the pedestal of which is in all respects the same as the foregoing; it contains a very fine Chime of Bells, which ring changes, express the piano and forte, and other graces of music, and, by opening the doors, discovers a grand Cascade, and curious Fountains of artificial water, falling from rocks, streaming from Dolphins, and blow'd up by Tritons out of their shells, and reflected again by mirrors placed in cavities of the rocks.

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Upon it stands a Bird-Cage of exquisite richness and beauty, composed of gold, silver, jewellery and agate, finely designed and ornamented; under the doors of the Cage are pannels in which Birds are seen in motion; in one pannel picking fruit and flowers, and in the other, a Nest of Birds fed by the old one: Upon the Cage is an Eight-day Time-piece, that chimes, strikes, and repeats; has two Dials, and, at the right and left of the Cage, gives motion to vertical stars, of Jeweller's work. Above the Time-piece is a Temple of Agate, adorned with pillars of silver, and ornaments of gold and jewels; in the front, a curious painting in motion; above the Temple an hexagonal pavillion, in the center of which is a double vertical star; it terminating with a larger star, in spiral motion. Within the Cage, are a Bullfinch and Goldfinch, all of Jeweller's work, their plumage formed of stones of various colours; they move their bills, warble, and flutter their wings; their notes are musical and melodious, singing both solos and duets, which produce the most pleasing effect.

This piece is near twelve feet high.

#### PIECE the TWELFTH.

A very large rich Vase, overlaid with gold, open on every side, filled with rock-work, animals blowing water from their

their mouths; swans, form'd of silver, swimming on the surface; the handles, sides, feet, and every part of the vase, enriched with a profusion of ornaments, and set with stones and work of the Jeweller, with which the vase is also filled, displaying a grand bouquet of exquisite workmanship; the various flowers with their leaves being copied from nature, and set with upwards of one hundred thousand stones, of different colours, by which the shades and tints of the flowers are beautifully expressed; the capital ones unfolding and closing again like nature, and the rest, being fixed on spiral springs of temper'd gold, move and vibrate by the smallest motion: Above the flowers are two birds, as if hanging to a spray; they are animated like life; the under one looking up with open mouth, is fed by the other with pearls, whose wings are in motion, fluttering at the same time.

This matchless and magnificent Piece is fixed on a rich pedestal, supported by four gilt columns, adorned with large sun and other flowers, growing out of the mouths of four curious reptiles, which were originally cast from nature. Within the columns is a spiral ornament, enriched with leaves and flowers of jewellery. Down the spiral descend numberless golden balls; at the foot of the spiral being a Crocodile, who swallows them as they approach, opening  
and

and closing his jaw like nature: It is raised on gold steps, and is twelve feet high.

### PIECE the THIRTEENTH.

A grand Water-work of fountains and cascades, in all directions; the base of it is a large rock, in the caverns of which, on every side, are falls of water, and in the front ships pass and repass, rolling and agitated as in a gale of wind; at the four corners of the rock are many headed Dragons; above them, Sea-Nymphs sitting on rocks, from which issue fountains of water, and holding chains of gold fix'd to the necks of the Dragons; from the rock ascends a pyramid of fountains, where, upon every side, are various animals, water issuing out of their mouths from one to the other; above them a group of Dolphins blowing up streams of water, which terminate with spirals of jewellery. On each side, two beautiful fountains terminate in like manner. Between the Sea-Nymph above the rock, is an irradiating Sun, below it a Peacock of Jeweller's work, whose plumage is of stones of radiant colours, like nature: Above the Sun, which is fixed in a frame of the finest agate, of a ruby colour, and decorated with jewellery, is a curious Time-piece, that repeats the hours and quarters; the recesses of the onyx frame are also full of fountains. This is the most capital



capital piece of artificial water-works that Mr. Cox ever made, and is accompanied with musical chimes, the whole set in motion together, so as to play for a longer or a shorter duration.

The Pedestal of this curious work of art is made to correspond with it, and is supported by columns of crystal, adorned with jewellery work; on every side the representation of water issuing from crystal rocks: in the centre is a Triton striding a Sea-horse, surrounded by Sea-dragons, and otherways finely decorated; it is near twelve feet high.

#### PIECE the FOURTEENTH.

Is a grand Flower-Pot, the same as No. 12.

#### PIECE the FIFTEENTH.

At the West end of the room is the curious Chronoscope, the fellow of which now graces the palace of the Emperor of China, at Pekin; this far exceeds that, on account of many great additions and improvements, and stands within a pavillion of mirrors, upon a ground of red morocco and gold, rais'd several steps: from a rich canopy border'd with crimson, tassell'd with gold, and embellish'd with pearls, are suspended elegant curtains of crimson and gold, hanging in festoons on each side; the dome is of red morocco and gold, and terminates with a gold Eagle. It is

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placed

placed under this magnificent canopy, and is in form of an obelisk, enriched with great luxuriance of fancy and elegance of execution, with a profusion of ornaments of jewellery, gold, precious stones, and pearls, adorned with animals, figures, flowers, fruit, and a prodigious variety of motions: It stands in the center of a rich gallery, upon a table of tortoiseshell, beautifully decorated, upon which an elephant, of exquisite workmanship, moves round the obelisk: upon his back is a castle of gold, enamelled on every side, and decorated with jewels and pearls, as is the caparison of the elephant: within the castle is a curious clock, with three dials; above the clock, on the top of the castle, within a rich gallery, are automaton figures, playing various tunes on twelve bells: over the music gallery, is a figure that strikes the hours and quarters; above that a pyramid of moving stars, which terminate with four dolphins, in the middle of which is an animated dragon, dropping pearls into one of the dolphin's mouths, moving his wings at the same time. The pedestal consists of four Bulls, in contrary directions, richly caparisoned, upon a ground of elegant workmanship, upon which dragons, storks, lizards, and various ornaments are placed: the table is bordered with large festoons of flowers, in jewellery, paroquets in circles of jewellery, hanging between the festoons, and is otherways decorated in a most costly manner. This piece is generally esteemed

esteemed the most elaborate display of invention and execution this country, or any other, can boast of: it is, including the pavillion, upwards of sixteen feet high.

**PIECE the SIXTEENTH and SEVENTEENTH.**

On each side the Obelisk are placed two rich Vases covered with the finest red mocha stone, overlaid with highly-finished ornaments of gold, containing musical chimes and mechanical motions; upon these an assemblage of Tulips, Lillies, Roses, Hyacinths and other beautiful productions of the garden, all copied from nature, composing flower-pieces of exquisite richness and costly workmanship, set with many thousand stones of various colours, with uncommon art and laboured attention. They stand on tables of silver, ornamented with gold and richly decorated, and are eight feet high.

**PIECE the EIGHTEENTH and NINETEENTH.**

In the corners of the room on each side of the Obelisk, are two grand sofas, decorated with highly-finished ornaments, enrich'd with gold, convex glasses, reflecting mirrors, and other elegant decorations; the seats and pillows are crimson velvet, fring'd, border'd, and embroider'd with gold, and are fourteen feet high, the breadth in proportion.

**PIECE**



## PIECE the TWENTIETH and TWENTY-FIRST.

Within the rails at the East End of the Room.

Opposite to each other are two finely model'd figures richly gilt, representing a gardener's boy upon a beautiful green enamel'd ground, whereon various fruits, roots, leaves, insects and implements of gardening are placed, differently compos'd of gold and jewellery; this figure, which is of the most masterly execution, is made of molten copper, cast in various pieces, and brought together with great skill, and richly gilt; his coat, and other part of his dress embroider'd and ornamented with jewellery; in his hat a most brilliant feather, and contains on his head a Vase of avanturine and lapis lazuli, adorned with jeweller's and other costly work, and contains musical chimes, an irradiating star and curious time-piece; out of it grows a pine-apple copied from nature, whose leaves are finely enamell'd of a beautiful transparent green, the pine-apple is of silver, richly gilt, that bursts open upon playing of the chimes, and discovers a nest of six birds, in the center of the nest is the mother bird, formed of jeweller's work, whose plumage is set with stones of various colours, which, during the playing of the musick, is by a curious piece of mechanism animated like life; feeding her several young ones



ones with pearls, and moving from one to the other, holding each pearl in her bill over the bird that's fed, and drawing up another pearl which is also carried to the next bird, and then delivered, and so on successively feeding her young from one to the other, fluttering her wings at the same time, after which the pine apple closes again of itself.

These figures are placed under canopys of crimson velvet, enriched with gold and pearls, terminating with Plumes of Feathers, finely gilt; they are lin'd with mirrors, by which the figures are reflected, and the motion of the birds seen; curtains of crimson velvet and gold, are suspended in festoons on each side, where pedestals within the curtains are placed that support elegant small vases filled with flowers, and the pedestals with chimes and mechanism, by which the flowers unfold, and insects flutter with their wings, with other pleasing mechanical motions.

These pieces are fourteen feet high each.

#### PIECE the TWENTY-SECOND and TWENTY-THIRD.

In the same part, adjoining to the boys with the pine-apple, two other superb sofas are placed, which, besides a variety of most capital ornaments with which they are enriched, are decorated with convex and other mirrors in frames of gold,

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and

and on pedestals plac'd at the sides and front are adorn'd with several pieces of costly workmanship decorated with gold, jewels and pearls, which contain time pieces, mechanism and musical ornaments.

Between the sofas at the upper end of the room, are the pictures of their Majesties, painted by Mr. Zoffanii, on ovals of copper, those Royal portraits are magnificent beyond description, they are plac'd in frames of metal finely wrought and richly gilt, from whence issue numberless rays forming a glory or irradiation like beams of the sun, in various reflected colours of light, some of which, when in motion, appear like liquid fire extending on every side.

Suspended from above by genii over each picture are imperial resplendent crowns embellish'd with jewels and pearls, placed under a canopy of crimson velvet border'd, fring'd, and tassell'd with gold, and adorn'd with pearls, upon the cieling of which, and in front is a glory formed of glass and gold; laurels and palms of gold also decorate the picture of the King, as lillies and roses do that of the Queen, and are most exquisitely wrought from nature, and richly gilt.

Before the portraits upon a Throne of gold thirty-two feet in circumference of six steps, stand two rich and finely adorned altars of silver, border'd and embellish'd with gold;

gold; on the front of one within a wreath of oak is the cypher of his Majesty in letters of gold; upon the other, within a wreath of myrtle, the cypher of her Majesty finely executed. Upon the altars, form'd in high relief, various attributes and emblems are plac'd, distinguishing one as the altar of peace, the other of concord; beneath the throne is a band of mechanical musick, playing upon kettle drums, trumpets and other instruments, various fine pieces, compos'd by Mr. Smith, concluding with God Save the King; at the foot of the Throne on each side are pillars of silver, in richness, elegance and design corresponding with the altar, and upon them two elegant vases filled with flowers of jewellers work, copied from nature; containing musical machines and mechanical motions, by which the flowers unfold, and insects move like life: at the back of the Throne are plac'd four other most elegant vases, two of them pearl and gold, and two of jasper, decorated with figures, flowers, animals, and other ornaments, each containing beautiful bouquets of flowers of jewellery, and in the center flower of each, a curious time piece; the whole together is the most distinguished display of art and elegance which the fancy of the Proprietor could form.

It is owing to the costly and elaborate preparation of this superb ornament, designed as a dutiful tribute of  
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acknowledgment to the exalted personages pourtrayed, that this exhibition has been delayed so long beyond the intended time of opening, a delay for which the Exhibitor flatters himself both the motive and consequences of it will be his sufficient apology.

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\* \* Mr. Cox takes the present opportunity of acquainting the Nobility and Gentry, that he buys and sells all kinds of jewels, pearls, and valuable gems; assuring those who may honour him with their commands, that their orders shall be executed with the utmost dispatch, in the most elegant taste and on the most reasonable terms.

Orders left at his house in Shoe-lane, Fleet-street, or at the Office of the Museum, shall be punctually observed.

F I N I S.  
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## MUSEUM of MECHANISM and JEWELLERY.

March 2, 1772.

**M**R. COX having been informed that some of the Nobility and Gentry, who have not as yet done him the honour of inspecting his MUSEUM, think he has set too high a price on his tickets of admission, he takes the liberty of soliciting their attention to the very different circumstances that distinguish this from every other Exhibition. — It is presumed to be evident to those who reflect but a moment, on the prodigious charge, at which this entertainment has been prepared, that the proprietor cannot have form'd any idea of imposing either on the curiosity or liberality of the publick. The necessity, from the very nature of the undertaking, of admitting but a limited number of spectators at one time, and of the expensive attendance requisite on each exhibition, renders even the possibility of extravagant profit from it altogether chimerical. The design of the proprietor indeed appears to be misapprehended; He proposed to himself nothing more by publickly exhibiting such costly works, than to gratify, as he has always with pleasure done, the well-known curiosity of numbers, desirous of having a sight of such uncommon pieces of mechanism and jewellery; flattering himself, however, at the same time, that a Repository, the furnishing of which affords constant employment to many hundreds of ingenious artists, would not only reflect credit on their industry, but give pleasure to every friend to commerce and the elegant arts. He has relied so confidently on this presumption, as to put himself to an expence on the occasion unexampled in this or any other country. He hopes, therefore, to stand justified in his present reasonable claim to the means of Indemnification.

# MUSEUM OF MECHANISM AND JEWELLERY

Mrs. J. C. H. having been selected the first of the Society's members who have not as yet been in the habit of visiting the Museum, I think it but too high a praise on the part of the Society to have the Society of visiting their attention to the very different circumstances that distinguish this from every other exhibition. — It is proposed to be a series of short visits but a moment, on the principle of the "Museum of the Future" which has been proposed, that the proprietor cannot have found any idea of isolating either in the collection or display of the public. The necessity, from the very nature of the undertaking, of admitting but a limited number of spectators at one time, and of the expense attending repairs on each exhibition, renders even the possibility of extravagant profits from it altogether chimerical. The design of the proprietor indeed appears to be unapproachable; He proposed to himself nothing more by exhibiting such costly works than to gratify, as he has always with pleasure done, the well-known curiosity of numbers, tedious of having a sight of such uncommon pieces of mechanism and jewellery; but, as it is, however, at the same time, that a Repository, the furnishing of which would require constant employment to many hundreds of ingenious artists, would not only reflect credit on their industry, but give pleasure to every kind of connoisseur and the elegant eye. He has relied to contribute to this purpose, as it has hitherto an expense on the occasion anticipated in this or any other country. He hopes, therefore, to find justified in his present remarkable claim to the name of Inventor.

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